

REMARKS

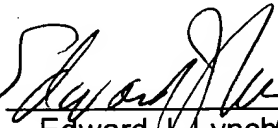
Response to Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 12 and 22 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by either Stewart et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,325,797) or Jenkins et al. (US Pub. No. 2002/0004631).

In response to the rejections applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 32 without prejudice and have amended claims 12, 19 and 22 to require the distal portion of the distal shaft section to extend distal to the proximal portion and be without electrodes. The cited references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting these claims do not disclose or suggest these features. In view of the lack of these features in the cited references, the applicants submit that the Examiner's rejection is not supported and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and an early allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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